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OUT OF COMA RECOVERY BEGINS FOR WOMAN ATTACKED IN MEXICO
 {page 7}

BIG GUY WHO HAS CHANCE TO TAKE HOME OSCAR {page 15}



HALIFAX

metro®

Wednesday, January 25, 2012
 www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.

Historic. Meeting



► Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn Atleo and Prime Minister Stephen Harper stand on stage during the opening ceremony at the Crown-First Nations Gathering in Ottawa on Tuesday. The government has announced it is promising changes to the Indian Act. See story on page 9.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PM meets native leaders

School sale back on for St. Pat's

► Council voted 13-10 to sell property instead of giving the community 90 days for business plan ► Site would cost \$7M to renovate for use ► Costs HRM about \$200,000 a year to maintain



JENNIFER TAPLIN
 @METRONEWS.CA

Halifax regional council did a complete 360 on Tuesday, agreeing in principle to sell the St. Patrick's-Alexandra school site to a developer.

In December, council voted to sell to Jono Developments Ltd., then rescinded that motion Jan. 11 after community outrage.

Under HRM's policy, community groups were supposed to get 90 days to put together a business case before the property was put up for sale, but in reality the community found out about the request for proposals shortly before it closed.

But it's not over yet. In order to officially sell the property, the policy needs to be repealed and that can't happen until the next council meeting.

Letters to HRM obtained by



"There's been too much time in this and I don't want to get sued."

COUN. JERRY BLUMENTHAL

Metro showed lawyers for both Jono Developments and the community groups threatened legal action.

A letter from lawyer Ronald Pink on behalf of the non-prof-

its was received by HRM on Tuesday. It said if council doesn't give them the 90 days, "it will be inevitable that legal action will follow."

But Jane Moloney, executive director of the North End Community Health Centre, said Tuesday no decision on legal action has been made.

A letter from Jono Developments received by HRM on Monday said if the city doesn't honour the contract then, "it will leave us with no alternative but to rely upon the legal authorities set by this country."

Coun. Jerry Blumenthal, for one, was worried about legal action during Tuesday's meeting.

And several councillors said giving the communities 90 days to come up with a plan would be giving them false hope.

More coverage {page 3}



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Building to work for everybody: Developer

Both the developer and the community groups involved in St. Patrick's-Alexandra sale say they're going to "regroup."

On Tuesday, Halifax regional council approved in principle the sale of the former school to Jono Developments Ltd. for a mixed-use development. Joe Metlege, president of Jono, told reporters on Tuesday the delay cost him.

"The city still has almost \$300,000 of our money (as a deposit) and we

have passed up on other opportunities," he said. "You're sort of in this business purgatory and you don't know what to do and when to do it."

He wouldn't say how much he proposed to pay for the site, but it was in the millions and fair market value.

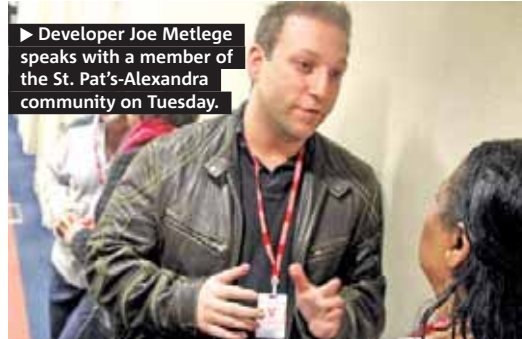
Metlege said he'll be working closely with the community to design a building that works for everybody. He added all three non-profits who issued proposals for the site,

and lost, will be welcome around the table, along with other charities.

The economic spinoff for the community could be more than \$100 million, he said, but it will take years to build.

Jane Moloney, executive director of the North End Community Health Centre, one of the non-profits involved in the St. Pat's deal, said the fight is far from over.

"For us it will be an opportunity for us to regroup, the groups have



► Developer Joe Metlege speaks with a member of the St. Pat's-Alexandra community on Tuesday.

been working together to this point, and consider

what our next steps are," she said. JENNIFER TAPLIN

No place like home? Not always

► Buy local idea for procurement debated, defeated at council



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

The buy-local issue sparked quite a bit of debate around the council table on Tuesday night.

Coun. Dawn Sloane asked for a staff report looking into giving HRM businesses a leg up when bidding for HRM tenders.

While councillors were divided on the issue, some said having a document that would outline the pros and cons of a buy-local rule would be helpful.

But in the end, council voted down the motion for a staff report.

Buying local is great for meat and vegetables, but not when it comes to cer-

tain industries, said Coun. Tim Outhit.

"We've got to be able to sell to the world," he said. "I'm very, very worried this is not sending the right message."

The issue came up earlier this month when a Dartmouth firm, Intelivote Systems Inc., lost a contract to a Spanish company, Scytel Secure Electronic Voting.

The head of Intelivote told Metro the loss might impact the company's survival.

Coun. Darren Fisher suggested a possible compromise and a tie breaker if a local company is close to an out-of-town bid.

A few extra bonus "local" points could work, he said.



"Our future is with the world when it comes to some industries."

COUN. TIM OUTHIT

A buy-local preference would show residents that council doesn't care about getting the best price, argued Coun. Linda Mosher.

She said she didn't even want to spend the money on a staff report looking into it.

Coun. Lorelei Nicoll suggested if a company is being subsidized by government, it should be taken out of the running for any HRM contracts.



► Coun. Dawn Sloane speaks during Tuesday's Halifax regional council meeting.

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news



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Cold thwarted snow clearing: Reashor

► HRM's snow removal boss addresses criticism over municipality's handling of last week's storm



ALEX
BOUTILLIER
@METRONEWS.CA

The man responsible for snow removal in HRM says there was nothing they could do to improve snow removal during last Friday's storm.

Ken Reashor said the cold temperatures thwarted municipal efforts to salt the roads during the storm that brought more than 10 centimetres of snow to parts of HRM.

"The temperature level wouldn't allow the salt to work," he said on Tuesday. "Once cars got on any of it at all it just hard packed and formed ice ... It's no different than your driveway."

Reashor said there's nothing the municipality can do in that situation.



► Coun. Darren Fisher

"(People) think the service level was less than what it was before, and in fact the service level standards didn't change, it's just our ability to clean the streets effectively (was hindered) by the temperature," he said.

Both the municipality

and province have come under criticism for their snow removal efforts. While that's a common enough occurrence in Nova Scotia politics, one councillor said the amount of complaints he's received is unprecedented.

"Clearly the public wasn't happy with the progress that was (made) during this snow removal system," said East Dartmouth Coun. Darren Fisher. "Two or three days later, there's still snow and ice on the side streets."

Fisher said there's an upcoming meeting between councillors and the municipality's winter works division on Feb. 16.

"This is something that we've got to get better at, because we've got to be prepared for all of this stuff," Fisher said.

Task-force idea sent to police commission

Coun. Jim Smith's idea of a resident-led task force to look at the root causes of crime in HRM was sent to the HRM police commission for its input.

At Halifax regional council on Tuesday, Smith said he was worried the task force might die at the commission. He said it's not about the police, it's about the community.

"I'm asking council to do something with the residents," he said.

Smith also said it's not to replace the mayor's Roundtable on Violence, as that focuses on municipal mandates. He said they've heard from the police and the experts, he wants to hear from the residents.

The task force would be made up of three to five residents who would talk to other HRM residents, especially in the most impacted areas, about the societal problems that lead to crime. Smith said he wants the provincial



► A Halifax Regional Police officer takes measurements at a shooting scene in this file photo.

government's participation and would ask the task force to come back within three months with a full report with recommendations.

"I think resident involvement is crucial," agreed Coun. Barry Dalrymple, adding crime "is a major issue in our municipality

and I think we can do better."

Several councillors said the task force belongs with the police commission because police involvement would be needed.

"This is why we have a police commission," said Coun. Russell Walker.

● JENNIFER TAPLIN

Dexter's man back — at HRM

► Greg Keefe to make sure books balance ► Aim: 'Value for dollar'



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Premier Darrell Dexter's former deputy minister will be overseeing the books at Halifax City Hall for the next six months.

Greg Keefe, who retired as Dexter's deputy minister in October, has been named HRM's acting chief financial officer.

He replaces Jim Cooke, who held the position for four months before returning to work with Sobeys.

Keefe, who spent 35 years in the provincial public service, said he has no direct experience in putting together a municipal budget. But he doesn't foresee that being an issue.

"Budgets are budgets," he said.

"The revenue streams are different, the expendi-

"I'm looking forward to working with them for awhile and (trying) to help council out with their issues."

GREG KEEFE

ture pressures are different, but I think the processes are very similar, especially for finding efficiencies and making sure there's value for dollar."

The municipality has been without a permanent CFO since April, when Cathie O'Toole left the municipality for a job with Halifax Water.

Keefe will receive between \$67,500 and \$82,500 over his six-month contract in addition to collecting his public service pension.

Trenton. No injuries



► Nova Forge general manager Rob MacEachern said this fire started in the building's pump room.

NEW GLASGOW NEWS

Fire sweeps Nova Forge

Firefighters say there were no injuries when fire broke out at Nova Forge in Trenton. A nearby plant that makes towers for windmills was evacuated.



► Council cash will get more buses rolling.

All aboard! Regional council looks to future, commits cash for buses

Halifax regional council gave its early approval to commit money in the upcoming budget to buy new buses.

HRM inked a contract with Nova Bus in September to build several buses in the coming years.

But because the buses need to be ordered a year in advance, HRM staff needed council to give pre-approval in the capital budget.

So about \$12 million was approved for replacing buses, nearly \$4

million for expanding the fleet, and \$700,000 for Access-A-Bus replacement.

That translates into 17 buses to replace older ones, five buses for expansion, and nine replacement Access-A-Buses.

► JENNIFER TAPLIN

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Judge won't review video in baby death case

► Closing arguments scheduled April 23-27 ► Rahman took stand in his defence earlier this month

A Nova Scotia judge won't view a recording of a police interview with a man accused of manslaughter and aggravated assault in the death of his seven-week old daughter.

Judge Felix Cacchione of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday that he's not required to watch the entire video of a July 2009 interrogation of Ashiqur Rahman in a Halifax police cell.

Rahman's defence lawyer had asked Cacchione to view the video in its entirety after the Crown repeatedly questioned Rahman on inconsistencies between his statements to police and his testimony.

Portions of the video were played before the court during the Crown's cross-examination of Rahman.

The Crown has argued that Rahman's testimony painted a favourable picture of his treatment of his daughter and former



► Jane Gomes

girlfriend Jane Gomes, contrasting what he told police.

Rahman has pleaded not guilty in the child's death.

He has maintained he never assaulted Gomes or their daughter, Aurora Breakthrough, who died at the IWK Health Centre one day after being taken to hospital suffering from a massive brain injury.

Gomes testified in December that Rahman assaulted her and, in one instance, grabbed Aurora by the hands and feet and shook her repeatedly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

● WITH FILES FROM METRO



► Ashiqur Rahman behind a courtroom door at Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Halifax last month.

Pit bull attacks young Cape Breton girl

A seven-year-old Cape Breton girl sledding suffered dog bite wounds to her back and leg after a pit bull attacked and shook her violently.

Charlize Bernard of Wagmatcook was with her older brother, Edwin, and two friends on Friday when the dog chased after the four of them.

Charlize's mother, Charlotte Bernard, said the pit bull normally stays inside her neighbour's house.

However, this time she said the dog was let out.

"It ran down the driveway and chased after the kids while they were sliding," Bernard said.

"(The dog) grabbed on to my daughter's back and shook her. He let go because my son kicked the dog, and then the dog grabbed on to the back of her thigh and bit her again, shaking her more until it ripped her jacket."

Edwin, 13, kept kicking



► Charlize Bernard, 7, left, and her brother Edwin, 13.

the dog as the other kids ran back to the house.

"Even the neighbour's kids hid in here until my neighbour got their dog under control," she said.

An ambulance arrived 15 minutes later.

Charlize had her wounds treated at Victoria County Memorial Hospital in Baddeck, and she was released that night.

The dog also killed the family's cat, her mom said.

CAPE BRETON POST

Traumatized

► The incident has traumatized both Charlotte Bernard and her daughter, Charlize, who has refused to play outdoors since the dog attack.

► "She has bandages on her back and bruises, and her jacket was all ripped. Her clothing was ripped and full of blood," Charlotte Bernard said.

Halifax police warn of break-ins

Halifax RCMP are telling residents of Lower Sackville to be on the lookout for suspicious activity after a string of break-ins.

They say they have received several reports of break and enters in Lower Sackville homes over the past three months. ●METRO

Man escapes robbers

Halifax police say a 19-year-old man was assaulted during an attempted robbery while he was

walking on Beazley Field in Dartmouth on Monday night.

The victim was able to fight back and flee the area, police say.

The victim received minor injuries and no property was stolen, police said.

●METRO

Police seek three in home invasion

Police are looking for three men who allegedly broke into a woman's Dartmouth home and demanded money at gunpoint.

They say the 20-year-old woman reported the men were masked when they allegedly broke into the home. ●METRO

Beating victim out of coma in Mexico

► Facial reconstructive surgery expected soon



**PHILIP
CROUCHER**
@METRONEWS.CA

A Lower Sackville woman severely beaten at a resort in Mexico late last week is no longer in a coma.

On Tuesday, Sheila Nabb's brother, Paul Giles, and sister, Kathy Carmichael, issued a release saying she was brought out of a medically induced coma on Monday afternoon.

"She recognized Andrew (her husband) and his father, was responsive to questions, and was able to understand and follow directions," the letter from Giles and Carmichael reads. "This is excellent news as it would appear that there is not any brain damage. She was also breathing on her

How to help



A trust fund at TD Canada Trust has been set up to help Sheila and Andrew with their expenses not covered by insurance.

► Account number: 651912
Transit number: 8072
Donations can be made at any branch across Canada.

own (through a tracheotomy) without the assistance of a ventilator."

According to Mexican news site noroeste.com, Nabb was found severely beaten in a pool of blood in an elevator at the five-star resort Hotel Riu Emerald Bay last Saturday morning.

"Every bone in her face was broken," her uncle, Robert Prosser, reached at his home in Kingston, N.S., told Metro on Monday.

In an interview on Tuesday, Prosser said he was delighted to hear that his niece's condition was improving.

"It's nice to know she was awake. She was responsive," he said. "It sounds so much better than it did." Nabb, who moved to Calgary from Lower Sackville two years ago, was staying at the Hotel Riu with her husband, Andrew. The couple arrived on Friday.

Case to be resolved soon?

Authorities in Mexico claim they are close to an arrest in the savage beating of Sheila Nabb.

Working in collaboration with local news outlet Noroeste, Metro has learned the area governor, Mario Lopez

Valdez, pledged a swift resolution to the ongoing investigation Tuesday.

"He says the case is going to be resolved soon because of the information they have," said Noroeste chief reporter Francisco Cuamea.

Details regarding the assault remain scarce, but the governor did say investigators have gathered that after arriving in Mazatlan Friday, Nabb and her husband Andrew went out for

drinks with fellow resort members.

After that, they returned to their room and went to bed together.

Andrew Nabb has told family that when he awoke the next morning, Sheila was nowhere to be found.

Cuamea's staff has learned a trail of blood was found leading from near Nabb's room to the elevator where she was found.

● METRO IN CALGARY

Fatal. Crash



► RCMP investigate at the scene of a fatal accident involving two tractor trailers on Highway 104 near the Cobequid toll station on Tuesday morning. Police say a 61-year-old man from Dieppe, N.B., was killed in the collision just before 7:30 a.m. Police say the 18-wheeler driven by the victim smashed into another parked on the side of the highway, with a 61-year-old Enfield man inside.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

Driver, 61, dies in highway collision



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JFK library releases private tapes

Newly released final recordings President John F. Kennedy secretly made in the Oval Office include an eerie conversation about what would become the day of his funeral.

While trying to arrange his schedule, Kennedy remarked that Nov. 25 was shaping up to be a "tough day" after his return from Texas and Cape Cod.

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum released the tapes Tuesday. They provide a window into the final months of the 35th American president's life.

The tapes include discussions of conflict in Vietnam, Soviet relations and the race to space. He kept them a secret from his top aides. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

In conversation

In a conversation with political advisors about young voters, Kennedy asks, "What is it we have to sell them?"

► "We hope we have to sell them prosperity, but for the average guy the prosperity is nil," he says.



► Former U.S. president John F. Kennedy in 1961.

Sex killer's wife to fight appeal of media ban

► Opening divorce proceedings to the public would cause Russell Williams' wife more harm than she has already experienced: Lawyer

Ontario's top court is granting an appeal of a sweeping publication ban on the divorce of convicted sex killer Russell Williams.

But most of the provisions of the ban will remain in effect for 14 days so that Williams' estranged wife can take steps to challenge the decision if she wishes, according to the 28-page decision released Tuesday by the Ontario Court of Appeal.

Mary Jane Binks, the Ottawa lawyer representing Williams' wife, said her client will ask to take the matter to the country's highest court. A lower-court judge had banned publication of details about the former colonel's wife including her name and address. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Fighting the ban

The ban was challenged by a coalition of news agencies, including the Ottawa Citizen, the Ottawa Sun, CTV, CBC and Global TV.

► Richard Dearden, who represents the media groups, called it an "important decision for freedom of the press."

► "There's a real public interest in knowing how the court is going to divide assets, like Mr. Williams' military pension, and what's going to be left over for Mr. Williams' victims to seek to enforce any judgments they will get against him in their lawsuits against him," he said.



► Ontario's top court is granting an appeal of a sweeping publication ban on the divorce of convicted sex killer Russell Williams.

'America is back'

President Barack Obama says "America is back" as a world power.

The president gave a flag-waving defence of American power and influence Monday night as part of his State of the Union address. He said world opinions about the U.S. are on the rise, and he calls America the "indispensable nation" in world affairs.

He talked about extending new ties and influence toward Asia, while claiming that old alliances in Europe and elsewhere are stronger than ever. Obama also cited the example of Iran, where with U.S. prompting much of the world is now united in applying sanctions over Iran's disputed nuclear program. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

News in brief

Bandit hurt his own case: Docs

Federal court documents say the "Barefoot Bandit" ridiculed police and prosecutors in emails he sent from prison, undercutting his claims that he's sorry for his two-year crime spree. He bragged that his accom-

plishments were "amazing." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

B.C. commune wants tax break

The leader of a B.C. polygamous commune on trial for suspected tax evasion says money earned by his followers is used in the community. Winston Blackmore says his community deserves special religious tax status. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

News in pictures

PHOTOS
1. MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
2. RICCARDO DE LUCA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
3. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
4. MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
5. ALIK KEPLICZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



1 A misspelled school crossing sign is torn out of the pavement Tuesday on the Lower East Side neighbourhood of New York.

2 In his annual communications message released Tuesday, Pope Benedict XVI extolled the sounds of silence. He said a little bit of quiet makes people better listeners and better communicators.

3 An anti-government protester holds a poster depicting Romania's President Traian Basescu, right, and former communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu that reads "There is one left," in Bucharest, Tuesday.

4 A model in a flower dress walks through the fair halls at the international trade fair for plants in the city of Essen, Germany, Tuesday.

5 Internet activists protest against the international copyright agreement ACTA (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement) in front of the European Parliament office in Warsaw, Poland, Tuesday. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Harper, chiefs at odds over future of Indian Act

► Prime minister has no plans to repeal legislation ► But many native leaders see it as obstacle to change

What was billed as a historic coming together of the federal government and First Nations began with the two sides polarized over the future of the Indian Act.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper sees it as something that can be updated to reflect modern practices.

But Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, led a parade of speakers who described the century-old legislation as a boulder blocking the path to collaboration.

They laid out their views Tuesday during a major meeting of First Nations leaders and government

"After 136 years, that tree has deep roots. Blowing up the stump would just leave a big hole."

PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER ON THE INDIAN ACT

ministers and officials.

The Indian Act, first passed in 1876, gave Ottawa exclusive jurisdiction over "Indians and Lands Reserved for Indians." The legislation, which was last amended in 2000, sets out rules on everything from how reserves operate to the effect of marriage on sta-

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivers a speech at the Crown-First Nations Gathering in Ottawa on Tuesday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Theories not enough: Defence

There are simply too many unknowns to be able to convict a man of four counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of his daughters and wife, a jury in Ontario heard Tuesday in a case prosecutors allege is a so-called honour killing.

The Crown alleges Mohammad Shafia, 58, one of his two wives and their son killed Shafia's three daughters and other wife. The bodies were found June 30, 2009, in a car at the bottom of a canal in Kingston, but the Crown did not present evidence specifically detailing how it believes the four died.

The Crown has suggested it believes the four were dead before the car plunged into the water, but in his closing address Tuesday, Shafia's lawyer told the jury they can't rely on theories.

"You don't know where,



► Mohammad Shafia

you don't know how, you don't know when that happened," Peter Kemp said.

Court has heard evidence it appears the four females made no attempt to escape the car through an open window, and the bodies were found eerily suspended inside.

The jury is expected to begin its deliberations as early as Thursday afternoon. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Think before you post: Commish

Privacy Commissioner of Canada Jennifer Stoddart has produced a video, a tip sheet for parents and a kit for teachers to help kids deal with online privacy threats.

She says young people often don't think about

privacy problems as they surf the net. The material is aimed at children in grades 7 and 8.

The online video looks at some of the privacy pitfalls associated with the web. The tip sheet offers parents a dozen points to

use when discussing the issue with their children.

Stoddart produced a similar package for high school students last fall, but says she wants to lower the bar as younger children jump online.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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► The Costa Concordia cruise ship
grounded off the Tuscan island
of Giglio, Italy, is seen at night.



Oil crews gather at Concordia

► Workers in place, ready to remove gallons of fuel from
grounded liner ► Death toll rises to 16 after body found

A barge carrying a crane and other equipment hitched itself to the toppled Costa Concordia on Tuesday, signalling the start of preliminary operations to remove a half-million gallons of fuel from the grounded cruise ship before it leaks into the pristine Tuscan sea.

Actual pumping of the oil isn't expected to begin until Saturday, but teams from the Dutch shipwreck salvage firm Smit were working on the bow of the Concordia on Tuesday and divers were to make un-

derwater inspections to identify the precise locations of the fuel tanks.

They were at work on the now-hitched Meloria barge as divers who blasted through a submerged section of the third-floor deck located another body from the wreckage, bringing the death toll to 16.

The Concordia ran aground and capsized off the Tuscan island of Giglio on Jan. 13, after the captain veered from his approved course and gashed the ship's hull on a reef, forcing the panicked evac-

uation of 4,200 passengers and crew.

The 16 bodies found so far include the one located on the third-floor deck Tuesday. Seven of the badly decomposed bodies remain unidentified and are presumed to be among some of the 17 passengers and crew still unaccounted for. On Tuesday, the U.S. ambassador to Italy, David Thorne, was at Giglio's port where he had lunch with relatives of two missing Americans, Gerald and Barbara Heil of Minnesota.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Oil-recovery experts work near the Costa Concordia.



ITALIAN NAVY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



ITALIAN NAVY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

► Scuba divers make their way into a flooded cabin of the Costa Concordia.



VIGILI DEL FUOCO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

► A scuba diver removes floating furniture to clear the way to enter the Costa Concordia.

Saving Venice

- The disaster prompted the UN cultural organization to ask the Italian government to restrict access of large cruise ships to Venice, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- UNESCO charged that the liners cause water tides

that erode building foundations, pollute the waterways and are an eyesore.

- Italy's environment minister, Corrado Clini, appeared to take up the cause Tuesday. "The aim is to free St. Mark's basin from the big ships once new canals have been dug."

ITALIAN NAVY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



► Scuba divers inspect the Costa Concordia.

Speedflirt

She flirts,
He flirts back

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Create a profile, browse profiles and find your match!

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Facebook, Google go head-to-head

The two biggest powers on the Internet, Google and Facebook, are in a high-stakes battle to be your search engine.

And this isn't just an online fight: The U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the European Union are investigating whether the Google monopoly unfairly damages other search engines.

Top guns at Facebook have created a new book-market and a stern lec-

ture in fairness to counter Google's own attempt two weeks ago to become more Facebook-like.

Google on Jan. 10 released Search Plus, a new search tool on its site. Search Plus scours the Internet through Google and Google Plus.

This means it leaves out the world's most popular social networking sites: Facebook and Twitter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google merges user data

Google is overhauling the way it treats user data, linking information across its array of email, video and social networking

services so that information gathered in one place can be used in another.

For example, if you spent the last hour logged into Google to search the web for skateboards, the next time you log into YouTube, there's a good chance you'll find videos featuring Tony Hawk.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WikiLeaks founder takes act to TV, promises controversy

► 40-year-old Julian Assange to host new talk show that will air in March

You've read his leaks. Now watch his show.

Cyber-transparency activist Julian Assange says he's launching a career in television, hosting what he's billing as a new brand of talk show built around the theme of "the world tomorrow."

The show's guests haven't been disclosed, but Assange has promised to give viewers more of what he's been supplying for years: Controversy.

The WikiLeaks secret-spilling site said in a statement released late Monday that "iconoclasts, visionaries and power insiders" would be brought in so that Assange could challenge them on their vision of world affairs and "their ideas on how to secure a

► Julian Assange pauses as he makes a statement to media gathers outside the High Court in London.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

brighter future."

The world of television talk shows is a new one for the 40-year-old Australian, whose group has orchestrated the biggest mass-disclosures of secret

documents in U.S. history. But the statement argued that Assange was uniquely qualified for the role given his past as "a pioneer for a more just world and a victim of political repression."

WikiLeaks

- WikiLeaks said the show would begin airing in mid-March.
- Julian Assange is currently fighting extradition to Sweden over sex-crimes allegations, and U.S. officials are weighing WikiLeaks' charges.

In its statement, WikiLeaks referred queries about the series to the hitherto obscure Quick Roll Productions, whose website carried no indication of where the group was based or who was managing it. An online records search indicated that Quick Roll's site was created about two weeks ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver eatery sells world's priciest hotdog



KENDRA WONG
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN VANCOUVER

Vancouver is now home to the most expensive hotdog in the world.

Eatery DougieDog Hot Dogs introduced a \$100 wiener to its menu Tuesday.

The Dragon Dog is made up of a foot-long bratwurst infused with 100-year-old Louis XIII cognac — which has a price tag of \$2,000 — Kobe beef seared in olive and truffle oil, fresh lobster, and picante sauce.

"When people have food, you have to be able to taste the different tastes. People have the chance to taste each (individual ingredient)," said Dougie Luv, owner of DougieDog Hot Dogs and a hotdog connoisseur. "All the tastes intertwine with each other."

The Dragon Dog may seem extravagant for some taste buds, but Luv insists it remains true to the original hot dog.

► Dougie Luv, owner of DougieDog Hot Dogs, with the world's most expensive hotdog in Vancouver.



KENDRA WONG/FOR METRO IN VANCOUVER

"I didn't want to change the concept of a hotdog. We wanted to inspire it and bring it to the next level," he said. "It's a hotdog that anyone would love."

No one has ordered the pricey wiener yet, but Luv says it will remain a permanent feature on the menu.

However, patrons looking to take a bite out of the dog will need to place their order 12 hours in advance so the special ingredients can be prepped.

Luv's creation was named the world's most expensive hot dog after beating out the \$69 Haute Dog found at Serendipity restaurant in New York.

Paper-clip dentist pleads guilty in court

A former dentist in the U.S. has pleaded guilty to fraud for using paper clips instead of stainless steel posts in root canals.

Michael Clair will be sentenced next Monday after pleading guilty last week in a Massachusetts court to a variety of charges, including defrauding a government health program of \$130,000, assault and battery, illegally prescribing prescription drugs, and witness intimidation.

Authorities say instead of stainless steel posts for root canals, he used sections of paper clips — which can cause pain and even infection — in an effort to save money.

Attorney General Martha Coakley says paper clips can sometimes be used temporarily, but the 53-year-old Clair used the paper clips as a permanent fix. Clair's licence to practise dentistry was suspended in Massachusetts in 2006.

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Top 5: January 24th

- 5 Katy Perry The One That Got Away
- 4 Marianas Trench Fallout
- 3 Rihanna You Da One
- 2 Drake Ft Rihanna Take Care
- 1 Adele Set Fire to the rain

Weeknights at 9 Tessa counts down the **HOTTEST 5** songs that day!

1013THEBOUNCE.COM





IMF cuts Canada's growth forecast

Canada's recovery is being dragged down by a cascading crisis in Europe and weakening conditions elsewhere, the International Monetary Fund suggests in its latest economic outlook.

The Washington-based monitor of global financial affairs said Tuesday that Canada's economy will likely now grow by only 1.7 per cent, more than half a point below 2011's 2.3 per cent advance. The new forecast is three notches lower than the Bank of Canada's estimate last week — and two-tenths of a point lower than the IMF's own previous call in September.

The IMF doesn't see the economy in Canada strengthening much in 2013. Unlike the central bank, which predicts 2.8 per cent expansion, it says Canada's recovery will be

Market moment

TSX	Dollar
	
- 126.46 (12,395.24)	- 0.16¢ (99.01¢ US)
Oil	Natural gas
	
- 19¢ US (\$99.09 US)	\$2.58 US (+ 5.7¢ US)
	Gold
	\$1,664.50 US (- \$13.80 US)

restrained to two per cent.

That's still tops among G7 countries for the two years combined, but only because the other six members of the club will be hit even harder by the EU crisis. Germany, Italy and Spain will record negative growth in 2012 and the eurozone will suffer a mild recession, the IMF said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Women's groups condemn tabloids

U.K. inquiry moves from hacking to the portrayal of women in media

Britain's inquiry into media ethics shifted its focus away from phone hacking Tuesday to look into how women are portrayed in U.K. newspapers.

Women's-rights campaigners told the inquiry that newspapers treat women as sex objects and mis-report cases of rape and domestic violence.

Anna Van Heeswijk of women's-campaigns group Object said that sexualized images of topless or skimpily clad women in British tabloid newspapers damage the way young women think of their appearances and lifestyles.

She said anyone who complained about the newspapers' use of these images in turn was vilified, and pointed to how The Sun newspaper called lawmaker Clare Short "fat, jealous" when she tried to stop

the tabloid from printing a daily photograph of a topless woman on page 3.

"Clearly the effect has been to close down free speech in relation to groups and individuals making a critique against these newspapers," Van Heeswijk said.

Marai Larasi of campaign group End Violence Against Women said newspaper stories about attacks on women often focused on their actions, implying that somehow they had provoked their attackers. She said newspaper reports about a woman murdered by her husband after she announced a separation on social networking site Facebook focused on her actions and not her husband's violence.

"The fact that it became known as a Facebook murder is symbolic," she said. "It was the murder of a real



► Object campaigner Anna Van Heeswijk on the cover of the Guardian's magazine, The Observer.

woman by her partner."

The media-ethics inquiry was set up after revelations that Rupert Murdoch's News of the World newspaper had illegally listened to

cellphone voice mails of celebrities, politicians and crime victims. New forms of press regulations are to be considered.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIM's future questioned as shares keep falling

Research in Motion shares fell again Tuesday amid continuing questions about whether the BlackBerry maker's new chief executive and chairwoman will be able to fix the global smartphone company.

In the two days of trading since Canada's premier information-technology company announced Mike Lazaridis and Jim Balsillie have stepped aside as co-CEOs, while remaining directors, RIM has lost about \$1 billion in market value.

The stock closed down about three per cent, or 50 cents, at \$15.17 on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Tuesday on the heels of a near 10 per cent drop on Monday. The shares closed



► Former RIM co-CEOs Jim Balsillie, left, and Mike Lazaridis.

at \$17.24 on Friday.

Scotiabank analyst Gus Papageorgiou said there are ways for RIM to do better, including licensing its QNX

operating system to other smartphone makers, but new CEO Thorsten Heins said that would not be a priority. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada's biggest labour unions ponder merging

Two of Canada's biggest private-sector labour unions are exploring creating a new, merged organization, a move they believe could spark other

unions to join them. The Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers said Tuesday they have been holding preliminary discussions for weeks. CAW president Ken Lewenza said the move is in response to the "increasingly hostile economic envi-

320,000 The Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers unions have more than 320,000 members.

ronment" its members face. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR — THEY'RE CATS

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



OK, class, today's question: How did we get from seeing eye dogs to emotional support animals?

Air Canada is trying to figure out how to accommodate people who insist on taking their cats on the plane and at the same time protect people who are allergic to cats.

They forgot to ask me, but the answer is obvious. Tell people to leave Kitty at home.

I have nothing against cats, but referring to them as "emotional support animals" and thereby elevating them to the status of seeing eye dogs is a stretch and a clear sign that the entitlement society needs to cough up a hairball and get real.

I realize I'm treading on wafer-thin ice, but if you want an emotional support animal, get a golden retriever. They love everybody, almost as much as they

love food, and are happy to see you, especially if you come with food.

Cats, on the other hand, barely notice other species that aren't dinner. They may crawl into your lap and go to sleep, but only because it's a warm place to go to sleep. They don't discriminate, as anyone who has ever awakened to find a cat sleeping on their face can tell you.

But, even if Kitty loves you, why return the favour by stuffing Kitty in a tiny box and making her fly economy?

(Just to make it clear.

I'm an equal opportunity

curmudgeon: The same goes for shih tzus and the like. Leave your adorable mutt at home in the care of a competent kennel.)

What's really annoying is this tendency to escalate beyond all reason. It's one thing to feel the urge to take Kitty to visit Aunt Bossy in Halifax, quite another to declare Kitty an "emotional support animal," raising her companionship to the level of ersatz human right. Right.

And shame on Air Canada for knuckling under. I like peanuts, but the airline had no difficulty depriving me of the tasty legume in order to protect other passengers from anaphylactic shock. As if?

Air Canada needs to know I'm addicted to peanuts. Once I start, I can't stop. Without peanuts, I'll never make it to Halifax. Those little cracker things don't fill the bill; I require emotional-support nuts.

And if I don't get them, I'll complain to my friendly neighbourhood Human Rights Commission, which never met a complaint it didn't like.

Then, I'm going into hiding.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying



Register at
metropolitanpanel.ca
and take the quick poll

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?

56%

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



44%
NEW YORK GIANTS

Local tweets



► @EmMackin: Metro Transit #Halifax, going on strike will

put a mega halt on the lives of thousands of uni. students, so please don't.

► @CRAIGNESS: !! @metro-halifax just realized that Blackberry and Metro Transit must be owned by the same people bc they both provide crappy service

► @TTFN11: @metrohalifax We have the WORST bus service in Canada and they want more money? Why should my tax money pay for this poorly run company?

► @FireMike59: Yup, that's #Halifax city council alright.. "Often associated with extreme incompetence and/or sudden & unexpected failure."

► @aliciadeon: Back at my favorite place in Halifax! #killam library

► @theevodriscoll: Dear halifax, thanks for helping me achieve that drowned rat look I've really been lusting after lately. @dalproblemz

► @HaliDerby: Splish Splash #Halifax - I'm taking a bath! Love the rain. Should get racer ducks out for a practice.....

Daily Zoom

Itsy-bitsy spiders — hard at work



Spider silk cape put on display

LONDON. This may not fit arachnophobes!

A golden cape created from silk spun by more than a million spiders goes on display at London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

The hand-woven garment took more than four years to make from the silk of 1.2 million female golden orb spiders, native to Madagascar. ● MWN



► Makers say spider silk is lighter than normal silk.

"We wanted to make something (in which) you'd feel cocooned like a spider web. ... There is a strange dichotomy between the repulsive and 'poetic' in spiders."

SIMON PEERS, TEXTILE EXPERT AND CO-CREATOR

How 80 people collected silk

PROCESS. To create the textiles, spiders are collected each morning and harnessed in 'silking' devices.

Trained handlers take out the silk from 24 spiders at a time.

Unlike mulberry silk from silkworms, in which the pupa is killed in its cocoon, the spiders are returned to the wild at the end of the day. ● MWN



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Winners and losers

► Even before awards night, there are clearly some overlooked films heading into the Oscar season ► But there are a few big surprises, some odd nods and Canadian talent in the mix

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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

In the first year where the number of Best Picture nominees can be anywhere between five and 10, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences settled on nine Tuesday morning, with *The Artist*, *The Descendants*, *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*, *The Help*, *Hugo*, *Midnight in Paris*, *Moneyball*, *The Tree of Life* and *War Horse* doing battle for the big prize. Here's a look at the winners and losers heading into Oscar season.

BIGGEST WINNERS

Martin Scorsese's delightful *Hugo* garnered the most nominations with 11, with popular favourite *The Artist* right behind at 10. Stephen Spielberg's *War Horse* and David Fincher's *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* received six and five nominations, respectively, though neither made it into the Best Director category. But the biggest winner of is *Bridesmaids* — and comedy in general — with the raunchy box office hit pulling in nominations for Best Adapted Screenplay as well as Best Supporting Actress for Melissa McCarthy.

BIGGEST LOSERS

The biggest omission seems to be in the Best An-

imated Feature race, which Spielberg's *The Adventures of Tintin* has been winning handily at other awards shows. But the European favourite didn't earn a mention in this category. Outside of animation, Clint Eastwood's Oscar-bait misfire *J. Edgar* failed to earn a single nomination.

BIGGEST SURPRISES

The pair of nominations for *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close* — Best Picture and Best Supporting Actor — seemed to come out of nowhere, as the film

hasn't made an impact in any other awards races. A Better Life star Demián Bichir, who also earned a Screen Actors Guild nomination for his outstanding performance, is a welcome surprise that will hopefully bring attention to an amazing but overlooked drama. And while Iran's *A Separation* is unstoppable in the Foreign Language category, many expected Angelina Jolie's *In the Land of Blood and Honey* to at least garner a nomination, as it did at the Golden Globes.



TOP NOMINATIONS

HUGO		Best Picture	Best Actor	Best Actress	Best Supporting Actor	Best Supporting Actress	Best Director	Best Adapted Screenplay	Best Original Screenplay	Best Cinematography	Best Costume Design	Best Film Editing	Best Music	Best Sound Editing	Best Sound Mixing	Best Visual Effects	Best Writing	Best Directing
THE ARTIST		Best Picture	Best Actor in a Leading Role	Best Actress in a Leading Role	Best Supporting Actor	Best Supporting Actress	Best Director	Best Adapted Screenplay	Best Original Screenplay	Best Cinematography	Best Costume Design	Best Film Editing	Best Music	Best Sound Editing	Best Sound Mixing	Best Visual Effects	Best Writing	Best Directing
WAR HORSE		Best Picture	Best Actor	Best Actress	Best Supporting Actor	Best Supporting Actress	Best Director	Best Adapted Screenplay	Best Original Screenplay	Best Cinematography	Best Costume Design	Best Film Editing	Best Music	Best Sound Editing	Best Sound Mixing	Best Visual Effects	Best Writing	Best Directing
MONEYBALL		Best Picture	Best Actor in a Leading Role	Best Actress in a Leading Role	Best Supporting Actor	Best Supporting Actress	Best Director	Best Adapted Screenplay	Best Original Screenplay	Best Cinematography	Best Costume Design	Best Film Editing	Best Music	Best Sound Editing	Best Sound Mixing	Best Visual Effects	Best Writing	Best Directing
THE DESCENDANTS		Best Picture	Best Actor in a Leading Role	Best Actress in a Leading Role	Best Supporting Actor	Best Supporting Actress	Best Director	Best Adapted Screenplay	Best Original Screenplay	Best Cinematography	Best Costume Design	Best Film Editing	Best Music	Best Sound Editing	Best Sound Mixing	Best Visual Effects	Best Writing	Best Directing
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO		Best Picture	Best Actor in a Leading Role	Best Actress in a Leading Role	Best Supporting Actor	Best Supporting Actress	Best Director	Best Adapted Screenplay	Best Original Screenplay	Best Cinematography	Best Costume Design	Best Film Editing	Best Music	Best Sound Editing	Best Sound Mixing	Best Visual Effects	Best Writing	Best Directing

Local talent

Canadians at the Oscars

► **Nominations** Toronto-born, Montreal-raised acting legend Christopher Plummer nabbed a Best-Supporting Actor nomination for *Beginners*.

► **Score** Toronto-born composer Howard Shore is up for best score for *Hugo*.

► **Language** Philippe Falardeau's *Monsieur*

Lazhar is nominated for best foreign-language film.

► **Short** Montreal's Patrick Doyon is up for best animated film for his short *Dimanche/Sunday*. Meanwhile, Calgary-based filmmakers Amanda Forbis and Wendy Tilby are in the running for their Prairie-based picture *Wild Life*.

► **Mixing** Welland, Ont.-raised David Giammarco hit a home run with a nomination for best sound mixing for *Moneyball*.

2

scene

Court

A trial to decide the broadcast rights of the Golden Globe Awards is set to start after a judge and attorneys resolved last-minute issues concerning witnesses and exhibits. U.S. District Judge A. Howard Matz urged attorneys to streamline the case.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Teen star Keke Palmer moves on from Nickelodeon with a more adult role in 'Joyful Noise'



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I saw mommy kissing ... 10 guys in a hot tub

► Emily Maynard becomes the first single mom to star on the Bachelorette

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONews.ca



Here's the thing about The Bachelor and The Bachelorette: If you want to put yourself in a ridiculous situation by vying for the "love" of some stranger while a group of other similarly-dressed people do the same on national TV, that's fine. You are a (semi) rational adult and that's your weird bag. However, it's when kids are involved that I get the heebie-jeebies.

It was announced yesterday that Emily Maynard, the 25-year-old single mom who was the chosen one on The Bachelor with Brad Womack, but then broke up with him shortly thereafter, will now be the star of the eighth season of The Bachelorette.

Although there is no word on what kind of role Maynard's six-year-old daughter will play in the



► Emily Maynard is the new Bachelorette.

series, the ABC press releases are quick to point out that Maynard is the first single mom to star in

the series. Maynard's little girl also appeared on The Bachelor.

Look. It's great that sin-

But isn't it confusing enough for little children when their parents date multiple people/make-out half-dressed in hot tubs without being on network TV?

gle moms can be on The Bachelorette.

In fact, the series needs to broaden their casting net — more single moms! More single dads!

How about single granddads? Heck, what about a contestant who isn't white? But isn't it confusing enough for little children when their parents date multiple people/make out half-dressed in hot tubs without being on network TV?

Let's hope ABC won't showboat the little girl for ratings, like they did with single dad Jason Mesnick's then four-year-old son Ty on The Bachelor.

Let's leave that poor parenting to Teen Mom, shall we?

Talking points

Aniston fuels pregnancy rumours by turning down new movies

OR MAYBE SHE JUST ISN'T THE DRAW SHE ONCE WAS Jennifer Aniston doesn't have any new acting gigs lined up, and sources say that's just how she likes it, according to the Daily Mail.

"She wants to focus on herself and hopefully becoming a mother," a source says.

"She is thinking of launching her own fashion line which would allow her to spend more time at home."

The source adds that Aniston has not scheduled any movies in the "foreseeable future," telling her agents "she needs a break."

Rumors circulated last week that Aniston is six months pregnant, and reps for the actress have neither confirmed nor denied the reports.

● METRO

Berry's ex charged with endangering her child

KEEP COOL Gabriel Aubry, Halle Berry's ex-boyfriend and the father of her daughter, is reportedly being investigated for criminal child endangerment and battery, according to TMZ. Law enforcement sources say Aubry allegedly shoved his nanny into a door while she was holding his and Berry's three-year-old daughter, Nahla.

The investigation was launched after the nanny filed a police report claiming she was injured, and Child Protective Services is reportedly mounting a separate

Celebrity tweets



"Sitting on a balcony watching far hills. White spire peaks. I feel blessed. Despite the stabbers the day has been kind."

@CormacMcCarthy



"Had fun at Sundance, just got back to L.A. I will be posting some iPhone pics from my trip soon. Stay tuned..."

@ParisHilton

@AlbertBrooks

"I got ROBBED. I don't mean the Oscars, I mean literally. My pants and shoes have been stolen."



@SarahKSilverman



"Behind every great big bully there's a great big bully"

child endangerment investigation.

● METRO

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Jolie giving out cold shoulders

PERHAPS IT'S THE LACK OF MEAT ON HER BONES Awards season is apparently getting awkward, as Angelina Jolie hasn't warmed to George Clooney's new girlfriend, Stacy Keibler, according to Us Weekly.

Jolie and Brad Pitt reportedly shared a private jet with Clooney and Keibler to the Palm Springs Film Festival, and sources say the plane couldn't get there fast enough.

"Angelina refused to acknowledge that Stacy was even on the plane," a source says.

"Angelina went out of



► Angelina Jolie

her way to ignore her, from takeoff to landing. She would not even look Stacy's way. She was not having it." ● METRO



Four must try spa trends

► From sound therapy to family-friendly spas, there are plenty of fresh treatments to test out

3
life



► Disney's family resort and spa Aulani in Hawaii.

1

Family Affair

More spas are accommodating adults and kids together. "The new thing is that it's the family. People want to go with their

children to spas. Not all of them, of course. Some want to go without," said Susie Ellis, president of the online spa portal SpaFinder. "We're seeing now the spas responding and very much making it more of a welcome place for kids."

3

Extra wow factor

Some spas are trying to wow and woo with unusual, eye-popping decor that defies traditional minimalism. In Thailand, a luxurious rainforest wicker treehouse, 'The Nest,' serves as a private spa suite suspended from tree



► 'The Nest' at Coqoon Spa in Phuket.

branches at the Coqoon Spa at Indigo Pearl in Phuket.

2

Colour, Light, Music, Vibration

Incorporating them as ambient afterthoughts is nothing new for the spa industry. Now they're 'becoming the main event,' a report from SpaFinder said.

One innovation is software that creates real-time music, tones, beats and other sounds like wind rustling and rivers to beats generated by a therapist's movements in tandem with the client's bodily responses during massages,



► While music used to be an ambient afterthought in spas, it's now an integral part of many treatments.

SpaFinder said. The client leaves with a CD of the 'well-being music-art' they helped create.

4

Cold and ice

The industry is taking a cue from the Romans, who more than 2,000 years ago finished spa-like experiences with a trip to the 'frigidarium.' At ESPA locations around the world, clients can scoop ice crystals from fountains to rub



► Spa expos are one place to learn about new therapies.

down after saunas. At the Qua Baths & Spa in Caesars Palace Las Vegas, there is an 'arctic ice room' to sit amid falling snow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel in brief



The Beatles, Jimi Hendrix, The Grateful Dead, U2 and hundreds of other acts have played the legendary outdoor stage at Red Rocks Amphitheatre, nestled between two sandstone monoliths in the Rocky Mountains foothills outside Denver. On Jan. 27, Atmosphere and rapper Common, shown, are headlining the venue's first concert in the middle of winter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Haida exhibition produced by three Canadian museums to tour Europe.



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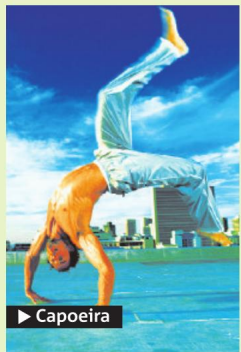

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Trek the Rio rainforest

► Two of the world's biggest urban forests can be found just a short distance from the centre of the city of Rio de Janeiro ► Trekking here, you'll find incredible flora, fauna and views

Quick tips



► Capoeira

TREK

- The tour guide Raf Kiss specialises in motorcycle tours (for the truly adventurous) but for those who want to take in the sights at a slower pace, he is also an enthusiastic leader of treks through all the great parks of Rio. www.mirantes-mototravel.com

STAY

- Several hostels are particularly geared to trekking enthusiasts. Try Ipanema's

Mango Tree Hostel (www.mangotreehostel.com) or Santa Teresa's Rio Hostel, since both offer trustworthy guides. www.riohotel.com

TRY

- Capoeira, the ancient combat dance art form. Instructor Wagner Rocha Gonçalves teaches either on the beach or in his centre in Rocinha. He can most easily be contacted through the Mango Tree Hostel. mangotreehostel.com



MARK EVELEIGH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Somewhere down the hill we can hear a scrabbling in the undergrowth.

A troop of raccoon-like coatis are hunting nearby but the jungle is too thick to reveal anything but shadows. A hummingbird — 'flower-kissers' they call it here — flits ahead as we move along a trail that is barely larger than the animal tracks that zigzag through the bush. During the last three hours we have seen few signs of human habitation. It is hard to believe that the bustle of Rio de Janeiro city centre lies just a short distance to our east.

Jungle guide Raf Kiss checks the reading on his GPS: "We're steadily gaining altitude," he says. The

burning tension in my thighs confirms his statement but in less than an hour we are victoriously clambering up a bamboo pole onto the giant boulder that marks the summit of Pedra Branca (White Stone Mountain). Looking across the forested slopes I realize that most of the land between here and the city remains a pristine wilderness.

Rio de Janeiro is one of the world's great unsung trekking destinations. Both of the world's two biggest urban forests can be found here: the immense Pedra Branca Massif and Tijuca National Park. Only here can you find 120 square kilometres of rainforest just 15 minutes from some of the world's most famous beaches.

Tijuca boasts more

than 30 kilometres of near-deserted trails but there are also several much easier treks rising almost directly out of Rio's gleaming sand, such as Dois Irmãos and Morro da Urca, home to large families of monkeys. The view from either of these peaks takes in two of the wonders of the world: the natural beauty of Guanabara Bay and Christ the Redeemer on his Corcovado perch high over the city.

If you are after a more challenging expedition, however, Pedra Branca is capable of surpassing all your expectations. When Raf's trusty GPS finally let us down, and we trekked right across Pedra Branca from end to end, and I gained a heightened respect for the world's largest urban forest.



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Tampa Bay Air + 7 Nights 4-Star from **\$425**
+ taxes & fees \$287

INCLUDES central accom at a beachfront resort in the North Redington Beach area. Price per person based on family of 4. **BOOK** package based on double occupancy for \$639 per person.

St Petersburg Air + 7 Nights from **\$439**
+ taxes & fees \$283

INCLUDES Gulf front accom with kitchenette at a beachfront resort located on Treasure Island. Price per person based on family of 4. **BOOK** package based on double occupancy for \$685 per person.

USA

Las Vegas Air + 4 Nights from **\$479**
+ taxes & fees \$183

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Montreal Air + 3 Nights 4-Star from **\$444**
+ taxes & fees \$168

INCLUDES central accom near the Bell Centre.

Niagara Falls March Break Family Special
Air + 4 Nights from **\$529**
+ taxes & fees \$166

INCLUDES airfare to Toronto, family accom on Falls Avenue, attached to an indoor water park and 4-day car rental with unlimited mileage. Price per person based on family of 4. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from \$6 per night. **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy from \$679.

South Pacific

New Zealand Long Stay
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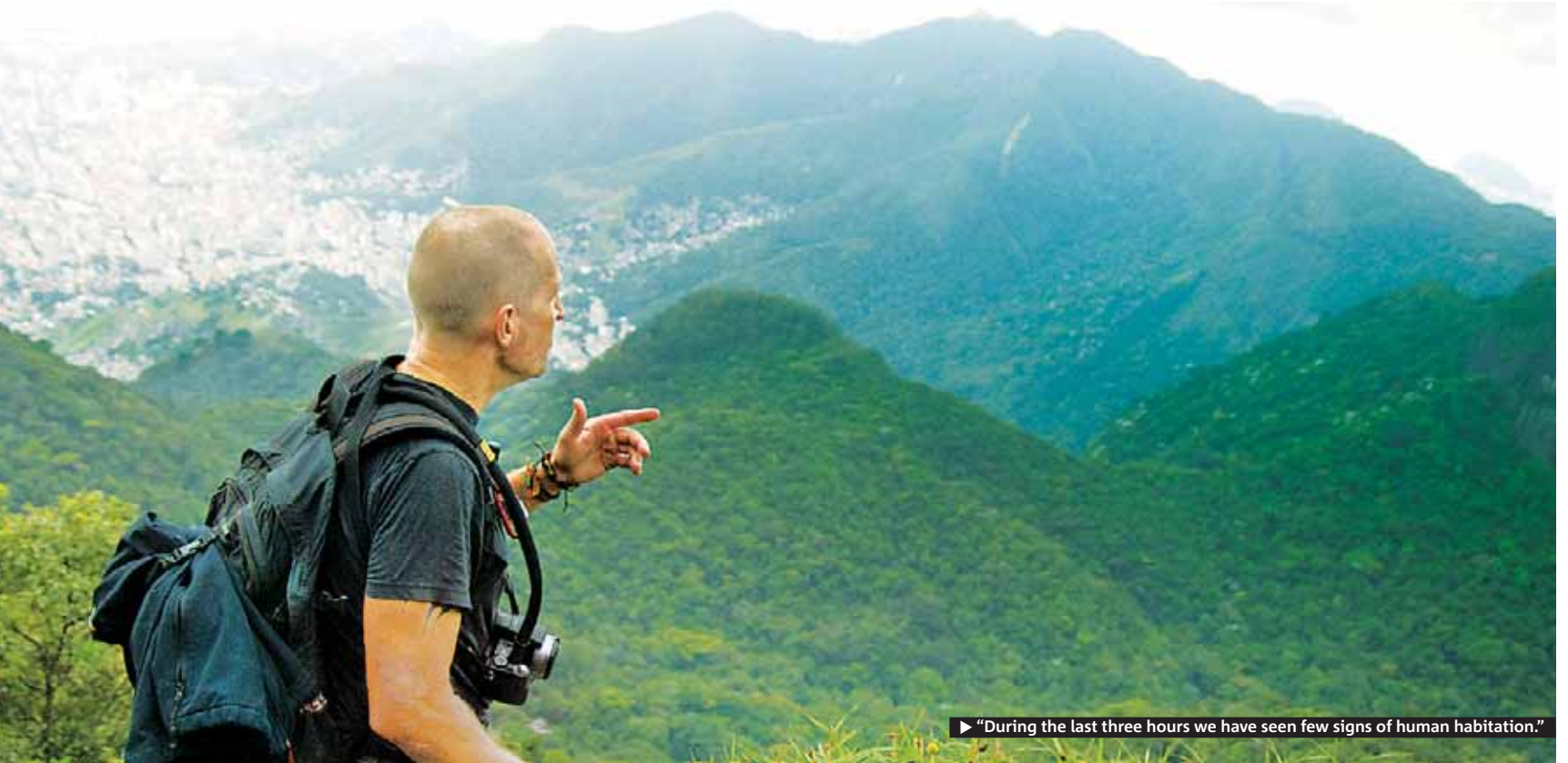
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► "During the last three hours we have seen few signs of human habitation."



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Why I chose to attend Hard Work U

► Prioritizing pages over partying ain't easy ► But skipping the occasional shindig feels worth it to this student

STUDENT VOICE

CEILIDH MILLAR
TALENTEGG.CA

As a first-year media communications student, here's the scoop.

The holidays are over and I'm back at school. During the break, I had a chance to catch up with friends who were home from university. By all accounts, they're having the time of their lives. They regaled me with stories about cool parties, wild weekend trips and antics of living in residence.

OK, am I missing something here? My post-secondary experience has been the exact opposite. Long days of classes, evenings and weekends filled with assignments and studying... pure slog!

Forget about those wild dorm parties. In my dorm there's complete silence by 9 p.m. — everyone is in their room studying or passed out from exhaustion!

I found my first end-of-semester experience overwhelming! Eight finals in four days...brutal! I spent my evenings at the campus broadcast centre cramming for exams



► Ceilidh Millar and CTV host Lloyd Robertson.

and editing film until three in the morning. Ah, beautiful sleep... is now my idea of fun!

Was I at No Fun Tech? Had I chosen the wrong school?

Over the break, I had time to reflect on why I selected this college in the first place. I chose BCIT because it has a great media communications program.

I wanted a program that focused on practical training in addition to the academics. The program covers both aspects and students can be secure in the knowledge they'll be

well prepared to enter the job force. BCIT has one of the best track records of producing top graduates who are sought after by employers.

Although it may be entertaining to be at Fun Time U, I know the true purpose of college. I believe in post-secondary education that gets you results — a job!

BCIT has accelerated programs. Students are basically doing four years in two. My university friends take only four courses a semester, I'm taking eight, resulting in 16 courses a term plus a

"Although it may be entertaining to be at Fun Time U, I know the true purpose of college. I believe in post-secondary education that gets you results — the job!"

CEILIDH MILLAR

practicum. Yeah, no wonder I'm tired!

I reminded myself, I'll have two years experience working in the industry by the time my university friends even graduate.

Yes, I definitely made the right decision.

Nobody said it was going to be easy. You know the saying, "What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger." Well, by the time I graduate, I should be Hercules!

Watch out world!

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

Lessons learned

Key take-aways from Ceilidh's experience:

- Choose programs and courses that offer hands-on experience to get ahead of your peers
- Pursue volunteer opportunities in your field to network and gain valuable skills

Where Ceilidh is now

I'm a first-year Media Communications student in the Broadcast & Online Journalism program at BCIT. An avid volunteer, I am an ambassador for Free The Children. I was appointed their youth reporter at the 2011 Vancouver We Day and co-hosted City TV's coverage of the day-long event. I am also a freelance writer for Vervegirl Magazine and specialize in articles on cause and volunteering.

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Sandwich that chicken breast

► This lunch boasts the picante flavour of curry, which works well with chicken ► Adding a dash of orange juice helps to fight colds

Looking for a new idea for your lunch that will help to keep that winter cold away?

This tasty chicken sandwich sings of orange flavour with a hint of curry, which makes for a perfect twist to a sandwich classic, with added health benefits.

Preparation:

1 In skillet heat oil over medium-high heat and cook onion and garlic for 3 minutes or until starting to soften. Add chicken, curry powder, coriander and turmeric; cook, stirring for 2 minutes. Whisk cornstarch into orange juice and add to skillet; bring to

boil. Reduce heat and simmer for about 5 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink inside.

2 Remove from heat and stir in yogurt, coriander, chutney, salt and pepper.

3 Spread mixture over 1 naan bread and top with spinach. Top with other naan and cut in quarters to serve.

NEWS CANADA/ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDS-COOKS.CA)



Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp (15 mL) canola oil
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) diced red onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 12 oz (375 g) boneless skinless chicken breasts, diced (about 2 breasts)

- 2 tsp (10 mL) curry powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each ground coriander/turmeric
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) cornstarch
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) Florida orange juice
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) 0 % plain Greek yogurt

- 3 tbsp (45 mL) chopped fresh coriander
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) mango chutney
- Pinch each salt and pepper
- 2 large naan breads
- 1 cup (250 mL) baby spinach

Drink of the week

Triple Shots of Flavour

Looking for a way to serve up a fun non-alcoholic drink? Try these shooters.

- Fresh cucumber
- Watermelon
- Ginger
- Sparkling water

On tray, place 3 shot glasses (2 oz each). Using small melon baller make 3 balls of cucumber, 3 balls of watermelon, 3 balls of ginger. Place fruit balls in glasses, then pour cold sparkling water over fruit. Allow to infuse 1 min. Bubbles will extract the fresh fruit flavours. SOCIETEPERRIER.COM



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Rainmen get their big back

► With Kuso back at full health, Halifax regains post presence for frenzied four games in five days ► Kick off tough stretch with visit to Summerside, P.E.I., to face the Storm on Thursday

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE



► Six-foot-nine Abdullahi Kuso hauls down a rebound for the Rainmen earlier this season.



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Growing up in a country where soccer is king, Abdullahi Kuso was 12 years old when he decided to chase another dream.

The Kaduna, Nigeria, native was a taller boy sprouting rapidly toward the six-foot-nine he stands today with the Halifax Rainmen. A family friend who coached basketball suggested he give the sport a try, and having watched NBA highlights on television at a time when another Nigerian — Hakeem “The Dream” Olajuwon — was in his prime, Kuso took to it immediately.

With very little formal training or organized competition, Kuso spent his time honing his post moves on Kaduna’s outdoor courts.

“It’s mostly a lot of big men, playing, learning fundamentals — no set plays or nothing,” Kuso says. “Grabbing the ball, dunking it, mostly outdoors, not organized at all like it is in the rest of the world. But I loved the game. It was a lot of fun for me.”

When he was 16 years old, Kuso got his break when a contingent of college and NBA scouts came to his hometown to host a combine. That helped him land a junior college spot in Tallahassee, Fla., where he

became an all-American and earned an NCAA Division I scholarship at Gonzaga.

Kuso had relatives in the U.S. who helped ease the transition — although he admits he initially questioned his decision.

“It was tough at first, especially adjusting to the weather,” says Kuso, whose hometown forecast for Wednesday calls for a high of around 32 C. “When I came here, it was winter and it was snowing. I was like, ‘Oh my God ... What did I get myself into?’”

He ended up getting comfortable and averaged 5.4 points and 4.3 rebounds in two seasons from 2006 to 2008 at Gonzaga.

Following in the footsteps of Olajuwon as an NBA player probably won’t happen for the 27-year-old, but he’s in his fourth season as a pro and is averaging 6.7 points and 6.8 rebounds for the Rainmen. As the team’s tallest player, the Rainmen sorely missed his rebounding and defence when he sat out a month after tearing a tendon in his pinky finger in December.

“It’s good to see Kuso continue to develop,” says Rainmen owner Andre Livingston. “He had a good career at Gonzaga and he’s really helping us with our ultimate goal here in Halifax, to win a championship.”

4
sports

More sports



FORMER HALIFAX RAINMEN GUARDS GREG PLUMMER AND TRAYVON LATHAN, PICTURED, ARE THIRD AND FOURTH IN NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE OF CANADA SCORING. PLUMMER, WITH THE FOURTH-PLACE SAINT JOHN MILL RATS, IS AVERAGING 17.7 POINTS PER GAME IN 14 CONTESTS, WHILE LATHAN, WITH THE LAST-PLACE MONCTON MIRACLES, HAS A 17.6 AVERAGE IN 13 OUTINGS.



Scan code for more sports.

‘Verbal incident’ vs. Rainmen costly for Lightning coach

The National Basketball League of Canada suspended the head coach of the first-place London Lightning on Tuesday.

Michael Ray Richardson received a one-game ban and an undisclosed fine for what NBL Canada director of public relations Bailey Williams called a “verbal incident directed at an opponent” in London’s Jan. 19 home game against the Halifax Rainmen.



► Michael Ray Richardson

Richardson, a longtime rival of the Rainmen dating

back to the Premier Basketball League, will sit out London’s Feb. 5 home game against the Oshawa Power.

Although the Lightning play four games before then, Williams said the Feb. 5 contest was “the best date available” and was unable to clarify why the suspension does not take effect sooner.

London (19-5) has a two-game edge on second-place Halifax. ● METRO

Sports in brief

SMU still sits 10th in Canada

CIS HOCKEY. The Saint Mary’s Huskies held steady at No. 10 in Canadian Interuniversity Sport’s latest men’s hockey top 10 released Tuesday. The Huskies (13-7-2), who split last weekend’s home-and-home with the Dalhousie Tigers and sit fourth in Atlantic University Sport, have already clinched a playoff spot. ● METRO

Smith-Dacey to open Scotties

CURLING. Top-seeded defending champ Heather Smith-Dacey faces sixth-seeded Sarah Rhyno at 1 p.m. in the opening draw of the Scotties Tournament of Hearts Nova Scotia women’s curling championship on Wednesday at the CFB Halifax Curling Club. Second-seeded Mary-Anne Arsenault, who won two world championships as second to Colleen Jones, takes on No. 8 Jocelyn Nix. ● METRO

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Federer, Nadal will meet in semifinal

A dominating win by Roger Federer in his 1,000th career match and a more difficult workout for Rafael Nadal set up a rare Grand Slam marquee semifinal between the former top-ranked players.

Four-time Australian Open champion Federer advanced to his ninth straight semifinal at Melbourne Park with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 quarter-final win Tuesday over Juan Martin del Potro, the man who beat him for the U.S. Open title in 2009.

Federer's 1,000th match was similar to most in his career — no-nonsense, dominating from the start and hitting some incredible shots.

"It's a lot of matches and a lot tennis," said Federer, a record 16-time Grand Slam champion. "Either I have been around for a long time or I'm extremely fit. You decide which way you want to describe it. But I'm happy."

Nadal advanced with a tough 6-7 (5), 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-3 win over Tomas Berdych.

"Happy with how I finished match physically, I was able to keep running with high intensity," Nadal said.

Federer and Nadal have been on opposite halves of the draw since the 2005 French Open. That was the last time the pair met in a Grand Slam semifinal, won that year by Nadal in four sets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Leafs. Victory

► Islanders forward John Tavares and Leafs blueliner Dion Phaneuf battle for the puck on Tuesday.

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Leafs complete sweep of Islanders

Clarke MacArthur's second goal of the game at 2:06 of overtime lifted Toronto over the New York Islanders, 4-3, on Tuesday night, giving the Maple Leafs a sweep of the home-and-home series. MacArthur took a feed from Mikhail Grabovski and slid the puck into goalie Al Montoya's glove, which was inside the net. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fat paycheque for Prince

► Fielder and Tigers agree to nine-year contract worth \$214 million US, source says

Free agent first baseman Prince Fielder and the Detroit Tigers agreed Tuesday on a nine-year, \$214 million US contract that fills the AL Central champions' need for a power hitter, a person familiar with the deal said.

CBS first reported the agreement.

The person told The Associated Press that the deal was subject to a physical. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract was not yet complete.

Detroit boldly stepped up in the Fielder sweep-

Paid in full



Alex Rodriguez, Yankees
\$27.5 million,



Ryan Howard, Phillies
\$25 million



Cliff Lee, Phillies
\$24 million



Albert Pujols, Angels
\$24 million



Prince Fielder, Tigers
\$23.78 million

Among current players, Fielder's new yearly average pay would be the fifth highest in the major leagues.

stakes after the recent knee injury to star Victor Martinez. A week ago, the Tigers announced that the productive designated hit-

ter could miss the entire season after tearing his left ACL during off-season conditioning.

The Tigers won their di-

vision by 15 games before losing in the AL championship series to Texas.

Adding the 27-year-old Fielder gives the Tigers two

of the game's premier sluggers, pairing him with Miguel Cabrera.

With Cabrera and Fielder, Detroit will begin this season with two players under age 30 with at least 200 career homers. According to STATS LLC, that's happened only once before. At the start of the 1961 season, the Milwaukee Braves featured 29-year-old Eddie Matthews (338 homers) and 27-year-old Hank Aaron (219).

Fielder has averaged 40 homers and 113 RBIs over the past five years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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POWER SELLS

BUT THE TRICK IS SELLING THE RIGHT KIND

Building and selling cars in today's economic climate is one thing. Forcing new technology into the marketplace is quite another considering the risk-reward scenario. Billions of dollars spent on untested, unproven and ever-changing markets.

Despite the focus on electric cars and other forms of alternative fuel and all the money spent developing it, the simple fact is that if buyers have cheaper and more convenient options — especially when cash and credit are already tight — they will take that alternative just about every time.

The budding electric-vehicle market sounds tempting and even exciting, but the vehicles are pricey, don't go very far on a charge, it can take several hours for a top-up and there's the bigger question about where to top up when you are away from home. For the short term, electric cars will be small and limited to short highway jaunts and in-city driving.

More relevant to the masses for the 2012 model year are the obvious fuel-economy strides made on the cars we are more likely to buy: Internal combustion and gas-electric hybrids that blend gasoline engines with helper electric motors to seriously cut consumption.

When it comes to internal combustion, automakers have handled the fuel-economy challenge in four key ways: Cutting the flab; going with smaller engines (and bolting on power adders where necessary, such as superchargers and turbochargers); adding transmission gears to increase an engine's mechanical advantage and reduce the revs on the highway; and new engine technology such as direct fuel injection and start-stop, which shuts off the car when it's not moving.

Each provides incremental

gains in fuel economy, but when all are implemented, the gains are worth more than the sum of their parts.

And this has become normal in the car business, to the point that the money spent developing fuel-saving tech is not generally affecting the price of new vehicles, aside from the modest year-over-year increases.

We say generally because the price of entry-level cars is on the rise, ironically due to buyer economics as they downshift into smaller, cheaper and more fuel-efficient cars.

But they are also dramatically better cars than they were a few years ago, some with spectacular design touches and sexy sells.

The challenge is in the luxury leagues, where cutting cylinders and power in the interest of fuel economy makes the big price tags tough for buyers to swallow, since the industry has

conditioned us to believe that more cylinders will cost you more, and in the luxury leagues it can be tens of thousands of dollars more.

So, is high-powered fun a thing of the past? Oddly, there's quite a bit more fun in a couple of categories as horsepower levels — which are often tied to efficiency improvements — dramatically

climb. The 2012 Camaro ZL1, for example is pegged at 580 horsepower, granted those "fun" examples seem fewer and farther between, even as the average V6 now makes 300 horsepower.

In that context, fun is all around us.

So, for 2012, it's a mixed bag of fancy new wagons, the culling of poor-selling and inefficient models, the arrival of sleek small cars from most of the major automakers, and raucous power in small doses.

And this makes 2012 one of the most interesting new-car seasons of the last decade.

— Jeff Melnychuk
wheelbasemedia.com



MITSUBISHI ADDS SPARK TO ITS VEHICLE LINEUP

NEW ELECTRIC I-MIEV IS A PIONEER IN CLEAN-ENERGY MOVEMENT

Mitsubishi has picked the cars it wants to keep in its lineup and it's not good news for the Galant, Endeavor and Eclipse. But it can only mean that new product is in the works and we can only hope whatever is in the pipeline is as off-the-wall as Mitsubishi's new electric small car, the i-MiEV.

The hatchback joins the all-electric Nissan Leaf

plus the gasoline-supported Chevrolet Volt as pioneers in the clean-energy movement.

However, the i-MiEV will be one of the smallest electrical offerings to be mass produced for general consumption.

As a short-haul urban commuter pod, it easily accommodates four adults as long as they are packing light. But with only the front seats in use, cargo capacity with the 50/50 rear seat folded flat matches the space available in the larger Nissan Leaf.

The i's top speed is about 130 km/h, but driving at that velocity will quickly sap its 330-volt lithium-ion battery pack positioned beneath the passenger floor. The system flows power to the 49-kilowatt (66-horsepower) electric motor. The i's range is about 155 kilo-

metres per charge, less than the 160 kilometres claimed by the Leaf.

Piloting the i involves shifting the single-speed controller to one of three operating modes: "D" for optimum performance; "Eco" for maximum battery life; or "B" to maximize the amount of regenerative braking that replenishes the batteries more quickly and stretches the i's effective range.

A 240-volt home charging system requires about seven hours to top up the i. All Canadian models come with a DC quick change port, which produces an 80 per cent charge in 30 minutes.

The \$33,000 (plus destination charges) base model includes air conditioning, power windows, locks and mirrors, heated driver's seat, four-speaker 100-watt audio system and all the requisite safety content.

At \$36,000, the Premium Package iMiEV bumps up the content with fancier alloy wheels, an eight-speaker 360-watt sound system and seats. Other options, including a navigation

system, are also expected to make the options list.

All new Lancers offer an SE AWC trim level with the sole aim of giving Canadians a fighting chance when running up against Old Man Winter. It comes with the 168-horsepower, 2.4-litre four-cylinder.

Other SE features consist of heated front seats and outside mirrors and added interior/exterior trim pieces.

— wheelbasemedia.com



Mitsubishi i Subcompact Hatchback — \$33,000 plus destination charges (est.) base price.

HOT FOR 2012

- For a lineup that's losing models, it's great to see some life, and something as different as the electric i-MiEV.
 - Last year for the Eclipse.
 - New all-wheel-drive SE trim for Lancer.
 - Reduced engine noise on RVR plus improved throttle response.
- CARRYOVER:** Eclipse; Lancer; Outlander; RVR
GONE: Endeavor



Mitsubishi Eclipse — Coupe/convertible; \$26,100 (est.) base price, including destination.



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OUTLANDER: COMPACT SUV — \$27,700



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RVR: SHORTER COMPACT SUV — \$21,700

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Outlander XLS
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RVR GT
model shown†

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Toyota Prius v

GROWING GREEN FAMILIES

TOYOTA PRIUS FAMILY EXPANDS TO THREE, INCLUDING THE V

For several years, it seems that the big news for Toyota has always revolved around the Prius ... and why not. Over its decade on sale in three different versions, it has proven to be one of the most practical and cleanest ways so far to significantly reduce emissions and fuel use.

The 2012 Prius family is expanded to three with a plug-in hybrid version (PHEV) and a larger wagon that's aimed at growing "green" families, dubbed Prius v. All three use the 98-horsepower, 1.8-litre four-cylinder engine teamed with a 27-kilowatt electric motor to produce 134 horsepower. The plug-in (PHEV) uses a larger and more powerful pack of lithium-ion batteries for an estimated 25 kilometres on electricity alone at speeds up to 100 km/h.

That's not a huge amount compared to the much longer ranges claimed by the Nissan Leaf electric vehicle (about 160 kilometres) and Chevrolet Volt range-extended electric (65 kilometres in electric mode), but the smaller pack allows a full charge in only three hours using a household plug or half that with a 220-volt outlet. The really good part is that once the battery is drained, the car still acts like a regular Prius, meaning an average fuel-economy rating of about 4.0 l/100 km.

NEWS FOR 2012

- Plug-in Prius hybrid as well as the larger Prius v added.
- New, but not radically different Yaris and Camry models.
- Sienna minivan coasting after a full-on redesign for 2011.

CARRYOVER: Avalon; Corolla; Matrix; Sienna; Venza.

GONE: None.

Unfortunately, the PHEV gains about 55 kilograms in the conversion, and will likely cost a fair chunk more than the plain Prius's \$29,300 (2011) price tag. Expect the expanded Prius v to sit somewhere in between.

Along that line, the redesigned two- and four-passenger door Yaris hatchbacks have more passenger and cargo volume. The more prominent nose features a larger air intake and angular headlight pods, while the door panels have sharp creases extending back to the taillights.

Toyota is sticking with the familiar

106-horsepower, 1.5-litre engine and five-speed manual transmission. The optional four-speed automatic option is lighter and has reduced friction, but its impact on fuel economy is negligible. Taken as a whole, it would seem the Yaris didn't require big changes and merely evolved, which is certainly the case for the new 2012 Camry sedan.

The Camry's oh-so-subtle changes include a pointier front end, chiselled front fenders and an accent crease extending across the doors and fenders. Toyota claims there is now slightly more passenger space resulting from cabin-layout adjustments. Inside, the organically shaped dashboard presents a layered appearance and buyers can now choose from four different upholstery finishes, depending on the model.

Revisions to the front and rear suspension are designed to keep the Camry more stable in a straight line, sharpen steering response and improve ride comfort. Very little has changed under the hood, although Toyota now rates the standard-issue 178-horsepower, 2.5-litre four-cylinder at 8.2 l/100 km in the city and 5.6 highway, improved from 9.0/6.0 for 2011.

— *wheelbase media.com*

Toyota Corolla
Sedan —
\$16,900
(est.)
base
price,
including
destination



BASE PRICES INCLUDING DESTINATION



CAMRY: MID-SIZED SEDAN; \$25,200; \$36,000 (EST., HYBRID)



AVALON: FULL-SIZED SEDAN; \$42,600



MATRIX: COMPACT WAGON; \$18,200



PRIUS: COMPACT SEDAN; \$29,300



VENZA: MID-SIZED WAGON; \$30,800



YARIS: COMPACT HATCHBACK/SEDAN; \$15,500

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*2011 Corolla CE, 2011 Venza V6 AWD, 2011 RAV4 FWD (BU426M-CZF4DVP-A/B/C38BT-B) with bi-weekly payments of \$143/\$289/\$201 for a cost of borrowing of \$1,840/\$5,289/\$3,414 and a total obligation of \$22,266/\$45,029/\$31,325. Includes a maximum of \$1,865/\$1,635/\$1,635 for freight and P.D.E. Taxes, license, insurance, and registration not included. **\$3,000/\$3,500/\$4,500 cash purchase incentive on 2011 Corolla CE manual transmission/ 2011 Corolla CE automatic transmission/ 2011 Corolla S, LE, XRS and \$4,750/\$4,250 cash purchase incentive on 2011 Venza FWD/2011 Venza AWD and \$2,750/\$3,750/\$4,750 cash purchase incentive on 2011 RAV4 2WD/2011 RAV4 4WD/2011 RAV4 4WD V6. Offers valid on retail delivery of new unregistered 2011 Toyota vehicles when purchased/leased, registered and delivered between January 4, 2011 and January 31, 2011. Individual dealer may sell/lease for less. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. †Make No Payments for 90 Days when you purchase finance a new unregistered Toyota vehicle through Toyota Financial Services. Offer applies on approved credit to retail customers who purchase finance and take delivery by January 31, 2012. The first monthly payment will be deferred for 90 days (until the 90th day of the contract) and finance contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 90 days of the contract. After 90 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest over the term of the contract. All offers are time limited at participating dealerships. Offers subject to change/cancellation without notice. See your participating Toyota Dealer for details.



Dodge Charger, Four-Door Sedan, \$31,400 (est.), base price, including destination.

DODGE PACKAGE ADDS AGGRESSION TO UNIQUE GRILLES, LIGHTS AND WHEELS

The 2011 model year was about modifying the product that Dodge wanted to sell so that it would actually sell. The 2012 model year is about getting rid of what the company doesn't want to sell, in particular the Nitro sport utility vehicle and the Dakota truck over at the Ram brand.

As well, 2012 is the last model year for the Caliber small wagon. Another familiar tag is returning for the model year and that's the Charger SRT8. Aside from the added aggression to the unique grilles, fascias, lights and wheels, the performance machine gets the same 6.4-litre "Hemi" (392 cubic inches) V8 found in the Challenger.

Pushing out 470 horsepower (beating out the previous 6.1 by 45

horsepower), it turns the Charger into a brash cruiser. Thankfully, the brakes are larger and the ride height is lowered and suspension firmed up to make sure the SRT8 turns and stops well as it accelerates.

Keeping the regular Charger charging is the new 3.6-litre V6 worth 292 horsepower. The six-speed automatic transmission has been replaced in most cases by a new eight-speed automatic. The returning five-speed automatic is hooked to the base rear-drive V6, and all iterations of the venerable 370-horsepower 5.7-litre V8 installed as standard equipment in the Charger R/T.

For the 2011 model year, the chrome-ringed crosshair grille was reshaped and extended so the car looks

more NASCAR-ish, which ain't a bad thing. In addition, the featureless hood from the previous model was axed in favour of a sculpted aluminum bonnet and the scalloped body side panels evoke memories of the late-'60s Chargers.

Out back, the full-length tail lamp bar pays specific homage to the 1970 model. The reviews have been generally favourable as they have been for the revamped Durango. The big "D" was designed off the 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee's unitized (frameless) platform, which has also been receiving high marks for its stout architecture that's capable of taking plenty of off-road abuse without twisting itself into a pretzel. It comes with the 290-

horsepower version of the 3.6-litre "Pentastar" V6 as well as the optional 360-horsepower 5.7-litre "Hemi" V8.

The latter features a variable-displacement system that attempts to reduce fuel consumption by shutting down half of the engine's eight cylinders under light load conditions. On the other hand, the Hemi-equipped Durango can tow heavy loads up to 3,360 kilograms (2,820 for the V6) and can also carry up to seven passengers when using all three rows of seats.

And since the same designers who penned the GC's interior also created the Durango's interior, it should be a slam dunk that comfort and roominess will also be first rate.

— *wheelbasemedia.com*



**BASE PRICES
INCLUDING DESTINATION**



Caliber: Small wagon — \$16,400



Avenger: Mid-sized sedan — \$21,400



Challenger: Two-door coupe — \$28,400



Durango: Full-size sport utility vehicle — \$39,400



Journey: Mid-sized wagon — \$22,400



Grand Caravan: Minivan — \$29,400

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Acura MDX Mid-Sized Sport Utility Wagon — \$54,600 (est.) base price, including destination

GREAT DRIVING VEHICLES

ACURA OFFERS POPULAR MDX SUV AND ZDX COUPE/WAGON

Acura makes great driving vehicles that have historically been light on pizzazz and drama. There is a general shift with Honda's upscale division, though, as you can clearly see in the popular MDX sport utility vehicle, the ZDX coupe/wagon and the somewhat controversial TL sedan with its large front and rear metal shields. Or maybe not that controversial since Acura has retreated

for the 2012 model year with a much more conservative look that will likely garner just as much criticism as the nose being replaced.

Surprisingly for Acura, it's the biggest news to report for the 2012 model year as all the really big changes have already been made for 2010 and 2011, specifically, the addition of the ZDX wagon, a restyle of the RL, a car that despite all its qualities, is likely in need of a full-on redesign.

Although it's an excellent road car that's packed with the very best features, including Super Handling All Wheel Drive, buyers have thus far not flocked to the rather pedestrian-looking RL. That might have something to do with the TL that, despite its controver-

sial looks, at least makes a styling statement of some sort and uses the same basic mechanicals as the RL.

In fact, the MDX and newer ZDX wagons also use the same basic powertrain, but where the MDX is really about utility and passenger space, the ZDX is all about ... well ... who really knows, but it is, by far, the coolest Acura in the fleet, even if it's the most impractical with its tiny rear passenger doors and entry/exit antics that require pushing your knees perilously close to your chin.

Even still, with a price that comes dangerously close to that of the MDX, we would pick the ZDX every time, proving that style often wins out over engineering and practicality, especially when the en-

gineering playing field is level.

Of particular note is Acura's Super Handling All Wheel Drive that's right up there with Audi's Quattro system. Most Acuras either have it or are available with it. Aside from providing the usual sure-footedness when the roads are crappy, the system will overdrive the outside rear wheel in a corner to reduce the likelihood of understeer, which is a condition that might otherwise put you in the ditch if you are travelling too quickly for conditions.

Small changes for the 2012 model year include a TSX Special Edition sedan that includes a number of interior/exterior upgrades aimed at making this entry sedan a little more sporty.

— wheelbasemedia.com



**BASE PRICES
INCLUDING DESTINATION**



RDX: COMPACT COUPE — \$42,400



RL: FULL-SIZE SEDAN — \$66,600



TL: MID-SIZE SEDAN — \$41,400



ZDX: MID-SIZED SPORT-UTILITY WAGON — \$56,900



TSX: COMPACT SEDAN — \$33,800



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2012 TL, RL, RDX, TSX and MDX available now. 2012 ZDX available Feb 1, 2012. All models available for preorder now.

*Selling price is \$54,720 on a new 2012 Acura MDX (Model YD2H2CJN) // \$42,520 on a new 2012 Acura RDX (Model TB1H2CJN) // \$45,520 on a new 2012 Acura TL SH-AWD (Model UA9F2CJ). Prices include \$1,895 freight and PDI, tires (\$15), air conditioning tax (\$100), license, insurance, registration, and taxes (including HST if applicable) are extra. †Limited time lease offer 2012 Acura MDX (Model YD2H2CJN) // 2012 Acura RDX (Model TB1H2CJN) // 2012 Acura TL SH-AWD (Model UA9F2CJ) available through Acura Financial Services on approved credit. Representative lease example: 0.25% nominal lease rate for 25 months // 0.25% nominal lease rate for 25 months // 0.25% nominal lease rate for 25 months // 4.7% effective lease rate for 25 months. Monthly payment is \$588 with \$6,900 down payment // \$428 with \$5,125 down payment // \$448 with \$4,650 down payment, and with \$1,895 freight and PDI, air conditioning tax \$100, tire tax \$15. First monthly payment, \$0 security deposit due at lease inception, if applicable. Total lease obligation is \$22,000 // \$15,900 // \$15,925. 20,000km/year allowance; charge of \$0.15/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. While quantities last. ‡Complimentary scheduled maintenance available on all 2012 Acura Models sold between Sept 1, 2011 and Feb 29, 2012 for 25 months from date of purchase or 50,000 km; whichever occurs first. See your Acura retailer for a complete list of exclusions and maintenance items. Offer ends Feb 29, 2012 and is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Vehicles are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Acura retailer for full details.

Suzuki SX-4 Sedan



THE STAR OF THE SHOW



All 2012 Kizashi's now include AWD!

ENJOY POWER OF CONTROL WITH SUZUKI'S KIZASHI SEDAN

The four-door Kizashi has been the star of the Suzuki show since its arrival for the 2010 model year. In terms of size, the family-oriented Kizashi slots almost exactly halfway between compacts such as the Honda Civic, Mazda3 and Toyota Corolla and their larger Honda Accord, Mazda6 and Toyota Camry siblings.

Visually, the wrap-around grille and hood appear influenced by Suzuki's SX4 model and the short rear deck and hunkered-down suspension certainly transmit a sporty vibe.

Inside, there are well-bolstered front

NEWS FOR 2012

All Kizashi's now come standard with AWD.

seats and the split-folding rear seat provides a decent amount of room in back for two adults.

The one and only engine is the 180-horsepower, 2.4-litre four-cylinder that drives all four wheels using a continuously variable transmission (FWD versions and accompanying manual gearboxes are no longer offered).

Base S models come with quite a bit of comfy stuff, including climate control, power-adjustable front seats, push-button start, seven-speaker audio system, Bluetooth wireless connectivity and eight airbags.

The mid-range SX adds a power sunroof, Rockford-Fosgate premium audio system plus leather-covered seats (heated in front), backup warning and 18-inch wheels (17-inch rims are standard), while the Kizashi Sport features a sport-tuned suspension, unique alloy rims and a rear spoiler.

— wheelbasemedia.com



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Sport model shown



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2012 Dodge Journey SXT shown.

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RAM

Fuel miser

The Skyactiv's performance is achieved from a higher-than-usual 12.0:1 compression ratio. Normally this would necessitate a premium-gasoline diet, but changes to the fuel management and engine design allow it to burn lower-octane — and less expensive — regular fuel.

The Skyactiv's six-speed automatic is the real fuel miser here with a consumption rating of 7.1 l/100 km city and 4.9 highway.

That's a major improvement over the 8.7/6.0 rating of the five-speed-automatic/base-2.0 combo.

Peppier ride

A few hundred kilometres of seat time confirms that the nature of the Mazda3 has changed for the better.

Although hardly a rocket ship (check out the 263-horsepower Mazdaspeed3 if that's your pleasure), the new model drives in a much sportier manner and certainly feels peppier.

Engine

Compared to the standard Mazda3, there's a revised — as in more aerodynamic — nose and tail. There's also a new Skyactiv 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine that's brimming with high-tech tricks.

It produces 155 horsepower and 148 pound-feet of torque. The base non-Skyactiv 2.0-litre engine makes 148 horsepower and 135 pound-feet of torque and is only available in base of the sedan. The optional 167-horsepower 2.5-litre four-cylinder also carries over in both sedan and hatch.



► The Mazda3 is broken into two camps for 2012: standard carryover tech from 2011; and the upgraded platform with the new powertrain available in sedan and hatchback. Skyactiv is not an engine or an option package, but rather a whole different car.

Forget hybrids: Mazda's not giving up on gas



MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

It's common for automakers to give labels to their more fuel-efficient offerings, whether that efficiency is real or perceived. It's marketing and sales at its finest.

There's Ford's EcoBoost line of engines as well as Chevrolet's Ecotec and eAssist. And of course there's Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive electric/gas system.

Mazda, however, has taken the name game one step further by branding a whole car with its new "Skyactiv" magic wand.

The rationale behind this approach is straightforward. Mazda thinks traditional gasoline and diesel engines will remain the

most popular form of automotive propulsion for the next few years. It therefore makes sense to continue refining those powerplants to be more efficient rather than spending millions of dollars on alternative-fuel vehicles, which make up a tiny slice of the pie.

Fair enough, but the reality is that other manufacturers are also refining internal combustion while still finding the resources to explore hybrids and electrics. Just look at the Chevrolet Volt. But what you won't read elsewhere is that Skyactiv is really a wholesale approach to a better driving experience with a reengineered chassis, transmissions and steering.

Fuel economy is just one aspect.



► Plans call for new tech that shuts off the engine when the Mazda3 is stopped and instantly starts it up again when the brake pedal is released.

Mazda3 Skyactiv



What you should know about the 2012 Mazda3 Skyactiv:

- **Types:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (155).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed manual; six-speed automatic (opt.).
- **Market position:** You won't hear about any Mazda gas-electric hybrid models anytime soon as the automaker specializes in sporty, fuel-efficient vehicles under its Skyactiv banner. But does that really make the strategy unique?
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 7.1/4.9 (AT).

5

drive

By comparison

Ford Focus

Base price: \$17,600
2012 version available in sedan, hatch formats plus upcoming electric model.

Honda Civic

Base price: \$16,400
Sedans and coupes offer a good mix of performance and fuel economy.

Hyundai Elantra

Base price: \$17,350
Cool-looking sedan delivers great looks and excellent fuel economy.

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PRIUS-C LOOKS TO EXPAND HYBRID LOVE

AUTO PILOT



MIKE GOETZ
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Hybrid sales are steadily increasing. But it's been a tough slog, like the road under them has been curiously strewn

with chicken fat, or some other equally slippery substance.

Hybrids still seem only to attract those "early adopters" of technology. Mainstream buyers still stay away in droves.

Will mainstream buy-

ers ever make the shift?

I put that question to Jim Lentz, president of Toyota's U.S. sales division, just after he had the honours of unveiling the automaker's newest hybrid — Prius-c — at the recent auto show in Detroit.

Lentz felt some mainstream buyers have already made the shift, by virtue of their acceptance of the hybrid versions of Camry and Highlander. He admitted, however, that mainstream hybrid buyers have yet to show up "in abundance."

"But I think by the middle of this decade, it will become a mainstream technology," said Lentz.

Earlier, he had outlined how the company plans to grow its hybrid business: by getting more hybrids into the hands of early adopters of every stripe, and letting this increasingly larger group prove the righteousness of the technology (not his words exactly).

Then, these early adopters become advocates of the hybrid cause and help it reach broader appeal.

Well that's one way of looking at it. The other is that mainstream buyers have had lots of chances to take long, hard looks at hybrid technology and said "no thanks."

Lentz acknowledges that mainstream buyers are partially focused on fuel prices. If they go up, they should turn to hybrids. If they don't, they might not.

For that reason, he wouldn't hazard a guess as to what percentage of Toyota sales might be hybrids and/or other alternative technology in the next few years.

"The price of fuel is such an extreme driver of

"I think by the middle of this decade, it will become a mainstream technology."

JIM LENTZ OF TOYOTA,
DISCUSSING THE FUTURE OF
HYBRID VEHICLES

that," noted Lentz.

"Once hybrids are accepted throughout the mainstream, beyond the fluctuation of price, it will be easier to gauge that percentage."

But the hybrid plot certainly thickened with the introduction of this new Prius-c (the "c" is for city).

The newest member of the Prius family looks like a great, little hatch, even before you consider its billing as the most fuel-efficient vehicle you can buy without a plug.

Toyota Canada says its combined city/highway rating is 3.7 L/100 km (53 mpg).

Also expect a starting MSRP below \$21,000. Its desired audience is young, urban buyers previously priced out of the hybrid market. Lentz called it a "gateway" vehicle for hybrid technology.

"It's a key component to the overall Prius strategy, by adding substantial incremental sales, and more importantly getting advocates to the Prius family and to the broad acceptance of hybrids."

CONTRIBUTED

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► The Prius-c pictured at the recent auto show in Detroit.

[illegible]

G8 a solid performer that packed punch

SECOND GEAR



JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONews.CA

For performance buffs, the Pontiac G8 was only slightly less attractive than owning a four-door Firebird.

Simple premise with this machine. Shoppers could bring about \$36,495 to their Pontiac dealers and leave with a brand new sedan stuffed with a V-8 engine that spun the rear wheels.

The 160,000-kilometre powertrain warranty and airbags made it an easy sell to that significant other, too.

2008 to 2009 Pontiac G8



Engine

Standard G8's got a 3.6-litre V-6 with 256 horsepower. The G8 GT got a six-litre, 361 horsepower V-8. Automatic transmissions were standard on all models.



What owners like

A high-performance driving experience, aggressive styling and pleasing handling were mentioned by most G8 owners.

Spaciousness, muscular performance and even fuel economy were also highly rated.



What owners dislike

Complaints centre around cheap interior trim pieces, some fussy controls and difficult-to-recline front seats.



Common issues

Listen for popping, clunking, grinding or snapping sounds from the front end while travelling over bumps at various speeds and angles. Any unwelcome sounds likely mean a suspension component is worn out or in need of replacement.

A well-documented problem with premature lower control arm wear resulted in a service bulletin — so a GM dealer should be able to address the problem in quick order.

Verdict

The G8 looks like a solid, robust and reliable performer. Remaining factory warranty should provide used G8 shoppers plenty of confidence, too.

Shoppers after a muscle sedan shouldn't expect any serious issues on a well-maintained used G8.

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Running a red light? I'm telling!

► In the near future, your own car could be snitching on you

DRIVING FORCE

JILL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

One of the most dangerous drivers is the "red-light runner" — one who, whether through inattention or impatience, doesn't stop at a red light.

Researchers are now working to predict which drivers are going to do this and potentially program your car to warn you.

Red-light runners can be identified because they don't have the right "braking profile," says Jonathan How, R.C. Maclaurin professor of aerospace at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"They're not slowing down, which could be a case of just having missed the light," he says.

"Or someone braking but not sufficiently, so the system would detect that they wouldn't likely stop in time."



GRAPHIC BY CHRISTINE DANILOFF

► Researchers have come up with an algorithm that predicts when an oncoming car is likely to run a red light.

By using these parameters, the MIT researchers came up with an algorithm that predicts when an oncoming car is likely to run a red light.

Testing with data collected from an actual intersection, they correctly identified red-light runners 85 per cent of the time, predicting within a couple of seconds whether a driver would run the light.

That could give other drivers enough time to react, providing they were given the information.

The ideal warning, How says, is through an existing

technology called vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication, in which cars wirelessly "talk" to each other to exchange information. Using the information in the algorithm, a car that suspects its driver isn't going to stop would broadcast that to other cars approaching the intersection. Those cars would flash warnings to their drivers, who could then brake or take other evasive action.

How says the system, built into new cars and retrofitted to existing ones, could potentially hit the market in five to 10 years.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spiritual

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"Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel,
 fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed
 Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Vir-
 gin, assist me in my necessity. Oh Star of
 the Sea, help me and show me you are my
 Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God,
 Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly be-
 seech you from the bottom of my heart to
 succor me in necessity (make request).
 There are none that can withstand your
 power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin,
 pray for us who have recourse to thee (say
 three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer
 in your hands (say three times). Amen." Say
 this Prayer for 3 consecutive days and
 then you must publish it and it will be
 granted to you. - CL

General Services

Tenders

Tenders

**MAINTENANCE AND MINOR IMPROVEMENT SERVICES
 ON MARRIED MILITARY QUARTERS
 AT 14 WING GREENWOOD, NOVA SCOTIA**

As a Special Operating Agency of the Department of National Defence (DND), the Canadian Forces
 Housing Agency (CFHA) is responsible for managing DND family housing, including the provision
 of maintenance and minor improvement services.

Defence Construction Canada (DCC), on behalf of the CFHA is calling for the submission of tenders
 for maintenance and minor improvement work on family housing units at 14 Wing Greenwood,
 Nova Scotia. The work will be done under Standing Offers (SO) on an "as requested" basis. The
 SOs will be in place from **April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014** (two years), with an option to extend
 for two additional one-year periods.

SOs will be established for maintenance and minor improvement work in the following trades:
 tile, resilient sheet flooring and carpet, carpentry, roofing, plumbing, electrical, hardwood floors,
 cleaning, painting, concrete and asphalt, grass cutting, landscaping and tree service, pest control,
 snow removal, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC). Firms that consider
 themselves qualified to provide residential housing maintenance and minor improvement services,
 are invited to contact DCC at Tel: **(902)765-1494 ext. 5436** to obtain the list of work packages.

Those wishing to obtain the tender documents for providing any of the packaged residential
 housing maintenance and minor improvement services must place an order with MERX by
 logging on their website: **www.merx.com** or by calling **1 (800) 964-MERX (6379)**.

THE TENDER DOCUMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH MERX DISTRIBUTION.

The tender closing date is: **February 7, 2012** for all packaged services projects
 The tender closing time is: **14:00 hours**, local time, for all packaged services projects

Sealed tenders will be received at the following location:

DCC Greenwood Site Office
Hangar 5
P.O. Box 39
14 Wing Greenwood
Nova Scotia
BoP 1No


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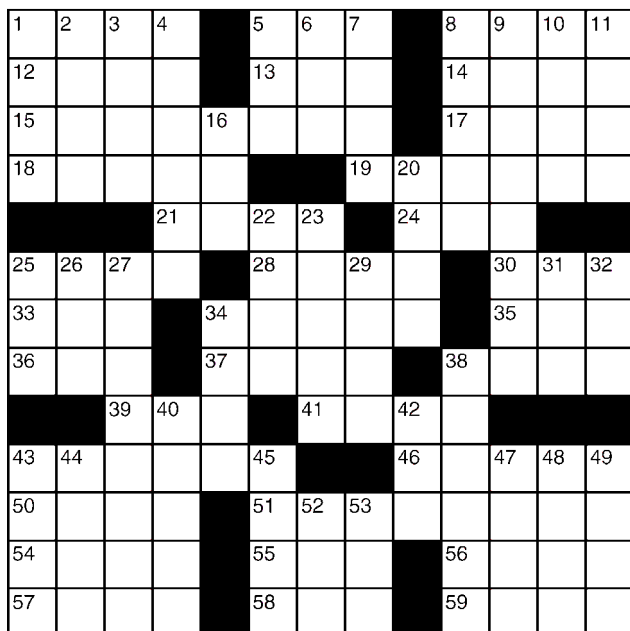
Crossword

Across

1 Protected
5 Transgression
8 Agile
12 Yoked team
13 Japanese pond carp
14 Hint
15 Making a vow
17 Luau dance
18 Excited
19 Carpentry tool
21 Campus mil. org.
24 Tennis stroke
25 Easy gait
28 Landlord's due
30 A Gershwin brother
33 Piercing tool
34 YouTube upload
35 Sister
36 1980s-90s Chevy subdivision
37 Top
38 Old
39 Bronze
41 Slow-cooker recipe
43 Photo finishes
46 Shortwave or CB
50 Eye part
51 Recent fad requiring one to lie stiff
54 Baseball team
55 Have a bug
56 Satanic
57 Lady —
58 Ball prop
59 Archibald of NBA lore

Down

1 Former frosh
2 Wheelbase terminus
3 Yard trio
4 Last
5 Tackle moguls
6 Charged bit
7 In the offing
8 Jerk
9 Pipes and such
10 Legislate
11 Calendar quota
16 Mailing HQ
20 Choir member
22 Stumble
23 Relinquishes
25 Trail behind
26 Have bills
27 Cabal's work

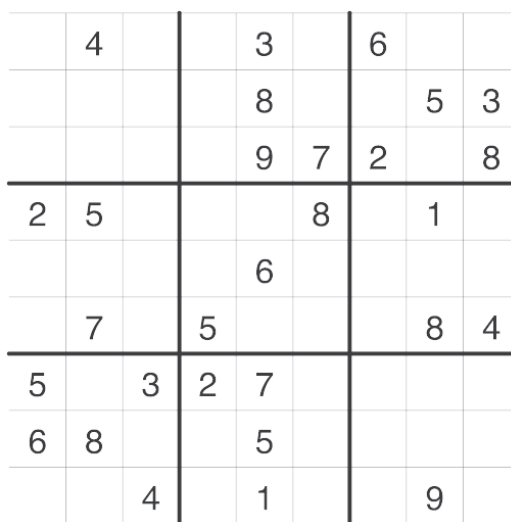


29 Adjoining
31 Regret
32 Moreover
34 Barn roof adornment
38 Stir
40 Bewildered
42 Coastal eagle
43 Chinese dynasty
44 Met melody
45 Quarrel
47 44-Down singer
48 First ltr.
49 Look longingly
52 Big fib
53 Hearty brew

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

4	3	6	1	8	5	7	2	9
9	5	2	7	3	4	8	6	1
8	7	1	2	6	9	4	3	5
3	8	7	5	9	2	6	1	4
6	1	9	8	4	7	2	5	3
2	4	5	6	1	3	9	8	7
1	2	3	4	7	8	5	9	6
5	9	4	3	2	6	1	7	8
7	6	8	9	5	1	3	4	2

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

TC, I can't imagine life without you. You are an amazing father, husband, and best friend. ILU4EVR NESSA

neil hollandaise-suase
We worked beside each other everyday, I love it. I hope you will see this and we can have a happy ending. I hope tomorrow you forget your fork...so we can share mine again. TAYLOR

Welsh Princess, Whereas others boasted of love but without the will to fight to keep it, ours has flourished more so through the hardships that we have faced. Although some problems were simply my own, you stood at my side and fought them with me. One other from Fort Sask. talked the talk but couldn't walk the walk. but you are my rock, my eternal love. I'm blessed to have you in my life. Each day I wake up beside you to see that you are an angel asleep on my shoulder. I love you, my love. HANDSOME

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20

You seem to be worrying about something that is not worth the hassle. It's best if you let it go.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21

The message of the stars is clear: Don't be hasty. You will get your chance to shine early next month.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21

You'll have to deal with someone's negative emotions today, without becoming negative yourself.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22

Do you ignore a problem and hope that it will go away? Yes. This is one of those occasions when what looks like a problem really isn't.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23

Be careful what you say today because if you are not, someone could take it the wrong way.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Look on the bright side today, even if the news you receive is dark. According to the planets, you have little to worry about.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23

This is potentially one of the most exciting times of the year, so why are you so fearful that something bad is going to happen?

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Try not to dwell on news, especially if it involves people you care for.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec.

The signals you are getting from colleagues are jumbled. It might be wise follow your instincts.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

You may be logical by nature but right now you are imagining weird and wonderful things. That's OK.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Although you feel confident and full of life, this is probably not a good day to take chances.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20

The Sun in Aquarius at this time of year makes you more suspicious than usual but maybe that's no bad thing. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest



You write it!

WIN! Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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